

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:46
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001
WORKSHOP ON CHILD ABUSE BY NHRC
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission recently organized a workshop on child abuse and rape in New Delhi, in mid December, 2000;
- (b) if so, whether the workshop concluded that there was an urgent need to redefine rape and child abuse in legal terms;
- (c) whether the National Commission for Women has also lately stressed the need for redefining rape and child abuse laws and has considered the existing definition as too restrictive; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

- (a): Yes, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with Angaja Foundation, an NGO, organized a workshop on 14-15 December, 2000 to sensitise judges, lawyers and police officials on the issues of child rape and child sexual abuse.
- (b): The recommendations made in the workshop are being finalized by the NHRC.
- (c): Yes, Sir. During the year 1999, the National Commission for Women had conducted State-wise workshops involving lawyers, members of judiciary and police force, social workers etc. to consider amendments in the laws concerning rape. The Commission brought out a compendium titled 'Rape – A Legal Study', which contained the recommendations that emerged out of these workshops. The recommendations inter-alia contained uniformly raising the age of consent under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code and all correlated laws to 18 years; giving a broader definition for the word 'rape' to include various types of sex assault; deletion of the exception relating to marital rape under Section 375 of the IPC, etc.
- (d): The recommendations made by the National Commission for Women have been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for appropriate action.